M E M O R A N D U M

January 31, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON

FROM: LESTER OTILLIO

RE: VERNON G. GERDES, WM, 43 YEARS OLD
RESIDING AT 1207 CONSTANTINOPLE
TELEPHONE NO. TW5-6815

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The following questions are by Officers Jonau and Otillio assigned to the District Attorney's Office on January 29, 1967:

Q. What was the date you first started to work for Guy Banister?

A. About 1957 in the Balter Building.

Q. How long did you work for Guy Banister?

A. I would say less than a year.

Q. Did you ever work in Banister's Lafayette office?

A. No, but I met him there for dinner quite often - two or three times a month.

Q. Do you know Dave Ferrie?

A. Yes, slightly. I have seen him around the office a few times and we met him at Domino's Restaurant one time for lunch. Banister was handling a case for him. Something to do with the airlines.

Q. Were you and Banister aware that Ferrie was a homosexual?

A. I didn't, but I guess that is what Banister was working on for Ferrie in regard to the airline.

Q. Have you ever seen any Cubans in Banister's Office with Ferrie?

A. No, not that I can remember. Banister was friends with one Cuban, a Mr. DeRosa.

Q. When you were in the Balter Building were there any Cuban organizations in the same building and do you recall anything about these organizations?

A. I can vaguely remember something about some kind of Cuban organization on Common Street. I don't know anything about it.

Q. Have you ever seen Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No, not in connection with Banister. He lived a few doors from my wife's grandmother.

Q. Do you remember when you worked for Banister who else was employed by him?

A. No, I took Joe Oster's place, however, there was a tall boy who used to jump from airplanes. I don't remember his name. He left town in 1958 or '59.

Q. Do you know Arcadia Smith?

A. Name is familiar but I can't place him.

Q. Do you know who else worked on Ferry's case?

A. Don't know, but Hugh Ward was involved.

Q. What was your opinion of Banister as a man, politically and otherwise?

A. I think he had to get permission from his wife before he made a move

Q. Do you think Banister was a radical?

A. No, he wasn't a radical but he did hate Communism with a passion.

Q. Have you ever seen Lincoln Rockwell?

A. Yes, in Banister's office once. Delphine Roberts and I waited outside.

Q. Who was Delphine Roberts?

A. Delphine Roberts was Banister's girlfriend. I believe that they had an affair going because Banister once spoke of divorce from his wife.

Q. You know where Delphine Roberts lives now?

A. No, but I knew she lived on the lakefront area.

Q. What kind of person was Delphine Roberts?

A. Radical, Way out, I think she was a nut.

Q. Do you know if Banister had anything to do with a Cuban organization?

A. Not that I know of. One thing that might help is that Delphine Roberts went into Banister's office right after his death and removed some files. She was supposed to have brought them to G. Wray Gill's office.

Q. Where did you get this information?

A. It may have come from Jack. I really don't know who it came from for sure. Wait!!! I think it was a guy named Bob Guzmann. He is a contractor.

Q. When did he tell you this?

A. Within a few months after Banister died. I think Guzmann can tell you a lot more. He also is supposed to be a game warden.